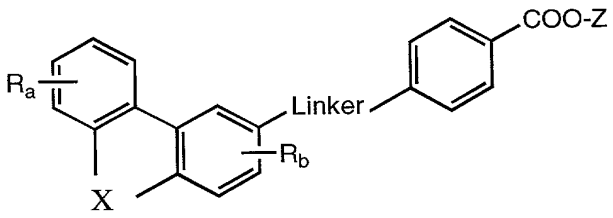
We Claim:

1. A compound represented by formula I



I

or a nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt, physiologically hydrolyzable ester or solvate thereof, wherein

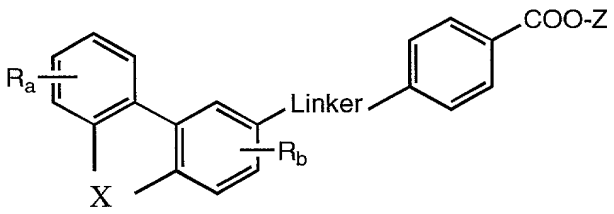
R_a and R_b are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, substituted amino, mercapto, polyfluoroalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, formyl, carboxyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

Linker is selected from the group consisting of C_2 alkyl, C_2 alkenyl, C_2 alkynyl, --C(=O)-NH--, --NH-C(=O)--, --CH_2O--, --O-C(=O)--, --C(=S)--NH--, --C(=O)-O--, --C(=O)-S--, --S-C(=O)--, --S-CH_2--, --CH_2-NH--, --C(=O)-CH_2--, --NH-C(=S)--, --CH_2S--, --OCH_2 --, --NHCH_2;

X is O, S, -$C(R_1)_2$, C=O, –$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --$YC(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$, wherein R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl; and

Z is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

2. A compound represented by formula I



or a nontoxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt, physiologically hydrolyzable ester or solvate thereof, wherein

R_a and R_b are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, mercapto, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkyl, halosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, aminosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, formyl, carboxyl, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-substituted amino, aryl or heteroaryl;

Linker is selected from the group consisting of --CH=CH--, --C≡C--, ----C(=O)-NH--, --NH-C(=O)--, --CH_2O--, --O-C(=O)--, --C(=S)-NH--, --C(=O)-O--, --C(=O)-S--, --S-C(=O)--, --S-CH_2--,, --CH_2-CH_2--,-CH_2-NH--, --C(=O)-CH_2--,--NH-C(=S)--, --CH_2S--, --OCH_2 --, --$NHCH_2$ or --CRc=CRd--, wherein Rc and Rd are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

X is O, S, -$C(R_1)_2$, C=O, –$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --$YC(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$, and R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl ; and

Z is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein X is –$C(R_1)_2$Y-- or --$YC(R_1)_2$--, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of O, S and $C(R_2)_2$ and R_1 and R_2 are, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

4. The compound of claim 2 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, $C(R_1)_2$, and C=O, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or methyl.

5. The compound of claim 3 wherein Linker is –CH=CH- or --C≡C--.

6. The compound of claim 3, wherein Z is H; R_a is hydroxy; R_b is hydrogen; Linker is --CH=CH--; and X is $-CH_2C(CH_3)_2-$.

7. The compound of claim 3 wherein Z is H, R_a is methoxy, R_b is hydrogen; Linker is (--CH=CH--); and X is $-CH_2C(CH_3)_2-$.

8. The compound of claim 3 wherein X = $-CH_2-S-$.

9. The compound of claim 3 wherein X = $-S-CH_2-$.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

13. A method of treating a tumor in a mammalian host comprising administering to said host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 3.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said tumor is breast cancer.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said tumor is cervical cancer.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said tumor is a second primary tumor in squamous-cell carcinoma.

17. A method for the minimization or prevention of a post-surgical adhesion formation between organ surfaces comprising administering to an animal host an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 for a period of time sufficient to permit tissue repair.

18. A method of treating inflammatory or rheumatic diseases which comprises administering to a mammalian host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

19. A method of treating nonmalignant proliferative skin diseases which comprises administering to a mammalian host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

20. A method of treating dermatoses comprising administering to a mammalian host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 2.